

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

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For Immediate Release

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COLLINSVILLE MAN CHARGED IN FEDERAL CRIMINAL COMPLAINT ALLEGING MARIHUANA OFFENSES

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on February 7, 2007, MARK A. HALL, age 50, of Collinsville, Illinois was charged in a two-count Criminal Complaint filed in the United States District Court for the Southern District of Illinois.

The first count of the criminal complaint charges HALL with knowingly and intentionally possessing 100 or more marihuana plants with the intent to manufacture marihuana, and the second count charges HALL with knowingly and intentionally maintaining a place for the purpose of manufacturing marihuana. The case has been scheduled for a preliminary hearing on Monday, February 12.

The violations allegedly committed by HALL took place on or about February 7, 2007, in Madison County, Illinois. The complaint was filed following the February 7, 2007, execution of a search warrant at a residence occupied by HALL in Collinsville, Illinois.

A criminal complaint is only a formal charge against a defendant that is comprised of the essential facts constituting the offense charged. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The offense with which HALL is charged in count 1 carries with it a mandatory minimum sentence of five years' imprisonment and a maximum term of forty years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$2,000,000, or both, and a term of supervised release of not less than three years. The offense with which HALL is charged in count 2 carries with it a penalty of up to twenty years' imprisonment, a fine of up to \$500,00, or both, and a term of not more than five years' supervised release.

The information contained in the complaint was obtained through an investigation conducted by the Metropolitan Enforcement Group of Southwestern Illinois and the Collinsville, Illinois Police Department. The Illinois State Police Tactical Response Team assisted with the execution a search warrant during the investigation. The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney James E. Crowe, III.

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